

REMARKS

The Examiner's action of November 21, 2007 has been given careful consideration. The recognition of allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated. Nonetheless, reconsideration of the application is hereby respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 11-15 remain in the application. Claims 5, 6, 8 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 16, 17 and 18 have been added.

The Office Action

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,882,498 to Cochran.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,072,127 to Cochran.

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 4, 7, 9 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable once the 112 rejections are overcome and if rewritten in independent form.

The Claims Distinguish Over the Cited Art

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cochran '498. However, as previously argued, it is respectfully submitted that Cochran '498 does not include a patterned illuminator as described and claimed in the present application. The Examiner indicates that element 10 in Cochran '498 is a patterned illuminator. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner does not establish that the element 10 provides spatially adjacent regions of uniform, diffuse lighting and lighting voids to produce engineered illumination fields. This arrangement should not be fairly read to be the patterned illuminator contemplated and claimed by the present invention.

Nonetheless, in an effort to advance prosecution on the merits, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended. The cited art does not fairly teach the now claimed patterned illuminator making use of blocking/masking elements.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be distinguishable from Cochran '498. Likewise, all claims dependent thereon are submitted to be distinguishable.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 11-14 as being anticipated by Cochran '127. The argument above applies to this rejection as well. In this regard, the Examiner points to no fair teachings of a patterned illuminator. As noted above, to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 11-14 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 16-18 are also submitted to be allowable. The Examiner points to no portion of the cited art that would fairly render these claims unpatentable.

Non-Art Matters

The Examiner objected to the drawings. However, it is again submitted that one of skill in the art would understand the features, as claimed, in view of the drawings. These arguments have been previously advanced, but the Examiner has not indicated why such arguments are not persuasive. For example, front lit diffusers are clearly supported by the description (e.g. paragraph 15) and the drawings (which, for simplicity, show representations of the light sources 90 and 110). The "second location" and the "inverse engineered illumination pattern" are recited in the method claims and the corresponding steps are shown in Figure 5 (and described in the associated text in paragraphs 39, 47 and 48). These features should also be clear to those skilled in the art from a review of Figures 3 and 6 (and associated text). As such, the objections of the Examiner should be reconsidered.

CONCLUSION

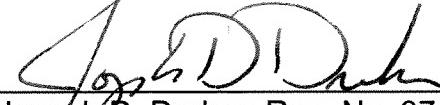
For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-15 and 16-18) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP

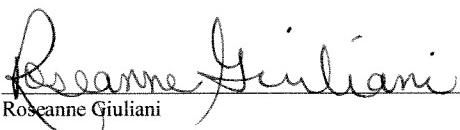
May 21, 2008

Date


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